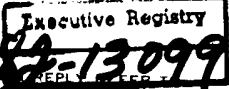


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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350

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Ser 009/191

15 November 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

18 NOV 1982

Subj: Merchant and Fishing Fleet Intelligence (U)

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1. (C) As you may be aware, Naval Intelligence proposed setting up a Joint Maritime Information Element (JMIE) in 1976. The JMIE was conceived as a condominium of government departments and agencies with interest in access to a central data base containing worldwide all-flag merchant and fishing ship characteristics and movement data. This data-then as now - was/is maintained at the Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center (NOSIC) and the Naval Intelligence Support Center (NISC), Suitland, MD. Everyone involved thought the JMIE concept a good idea, but it was never implemented.
2. (C) In the intervening six years, interest in merchant and fishing fleet intelligence has grown. Also, there is an increasingly close relationship between the NOSIC and such agencies and departments as Energy (for petroleum transport), Transportation/Coast Guard and the Drug Enforcement Agency (for narcotics interdiction), and CIA (for arms shipments). Other non-DOD interests lie within the Maritime Administration, Commerce, Agriculture, Justice, and State.
3. (C) The NOSIC and elements of CIA are developing specifications for modernized ADP, and possibly a data exchange system. Energy and other departments have requirements for cargo data (not routinely processed in the NOSIC/NISC data base) to support the National Energy Maritime Emergency Supply Information System and other economic intelligence interests.
4. (C) I recommend that all departments and agencies with a primary interest in merchant and fishing fleet intelligence be brought together through the good offices of the Intelligence Community Staff for discussion of their overall merchant and fishing fleet interests. This effort would have the goal of allocating requirements and sharing responsibilities for collection management, processing and reporting on the merchant problem. Informal liaison with RADM Burkhalter's office indicates a willingness to support this effort. With your concurrence, we will pursue this matter with the IC Staff.

Most respectfully,
John L. Butts
JOHN L. BUTTS

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director of Naval Intelligence

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IC Staff (DD/OCS)

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